

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 4-6, 8, 11, 13, 15, 19 and 21-26 are pending. Claims 4-6, 11, 13, 19 and 21 are independent. Claims 22, 23 and 25 are hereby amended. Claims 1-3, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 16-18, 20 and 27-50 are canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 4-6, 8, 11, 13, 15, 19, 21, 24 and 16 are allowed. No new matter is added by these amendments. Support for the amended recitations in the claims is found throughout the specification and the canceled claims. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

Claims 22, 23 and 25 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants submit that claims 22, 23 and 25 have been rewritten in independent form. Therefore, claims 22, 23 and 25 are believed to be patentable.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-3, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 16-18, 20 and 27-50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,812,903 to Wagensohnner et al.

Although Applicants disagree with the Examiner's allegation, claims 1-3, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 16-18, 20 and 27-50 are canceled herein in order to expedite prosecution and in order to place the application into condition for allowance. Applicants therefore request that the rejection to claims 1-3, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 16-18, 20 and 27-50 be withdrawn as moot. Cancellation of claims 1-3, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 16-18, 20 and 27-50 should not be construed as an agreement by Applicants with the Examiner's arguments. Applicants reserve the right to continue prosecution of these rejected claims in a Continuation Application.

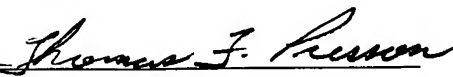
CONCLUSION

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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